**CHAPTER 1**, **SEX, GENDER, AND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

READ

Being a Boy, Julius Lester (in *Men and Masculinity*), 1974 (nonfiction/essay)

Lester’s essay recounts the everyday humiliations of trying to act the part of a boy when he’d really rather have been sitting in a quiet corner reading a book. Although he is envious of girls, he comes to realize they too are constricted by gender expectations.

*Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis*, Georgiann David, 2015 (nonfiction/book)

Challenges the idea that intersex is a disorder of sex development.

['It’s medically sanctioned violence and torture': Intersex patients call for end to genital surgeries on children](https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-life-intersex-surgeries-20181018-story.html), Nara Schoenberg, *The Chicago Tribune*, November 1, 2018 (news / article)

The story of intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis, who had two unwanted genital surgeries as a child and now advocates against such procedures.

*The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and Privat*e, Susan Bordo, 1999 (nonfiction/book)

A sympathetic cultural analysis of U.S. masculinity that ranges over literature, movies, personal experience, advertising, and politics.

[A Map of Gender-Diverse Cultures](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/content/two-spirits_map-html/), Independent Lens/PBS, 2015 (online interactive map)

Gender-diverse cultures globally.

*Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides, 2002 (novel)

The secrets and confusions of growing up intersex.

[*Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World*](https://books.google.com/books/about/Sex_gender.html?id=BhbJUlZvYwEC), Anne Fausto-Sterling, 2012 (scholarly / book)

Readable introduction to the biology of sex and gender for non-scientists.

[We Can’t Just Let Boys Be Boys](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/29/opinion/sunday/sex-education-ethics-assault-boys.html), Peggy Orenstein, *The New York Times*, September 29, 2018 (opinion / article)

It’s natural for parents to think their own sons would be incapable of sexual misconduct, but that does not absolve them of responsibility for educating their boys.

LISTEN

[Ain’t No Amoeba,](https://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-48-aint-no-amoeba-men-part-2/) Scene on Radio, July 25, 2018, 32 mins (podcast)

Exploring the nature-nurture debate.

[Can a Child Be Raised Free of Gender Stereotypes? This Family Tried](https://www.npr.org/2017/10/02/555180786/can-a-child-be-raised-free-of-gender-stereotypes-this-family-tried), Hidden Brain, October 2,

2017, 51 mins (podcast)

The challenges of raising Isis, now 16, outside gender stereotypes.

[Gonads](https://www.wnycstudios.org/shows/radiolab/projects/radiolab-presents-gonads), Radiolab, 2018 (podcast series)

6-part series takes a deep dive into biology and sex.

[Guys, We Have a Problem: How American Masculinity Creates Lonely Men](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/19/594719471/guys-we-have-a-problem-how-american-masculinity-creates-lonely-men), Hidden Brain,

March 19, 2018, 49 mins (podcast)

What happens when half the population is raised to think needing others is a sign of weakness?

WATCH

[The Codes of Gender: Identity and Performance in Popular Culture](https://www.kanopy.com/product/codes-gender), Sut Jhally, Director, 2010,

46 mins (documentary)

Decodes femininity and masculinity in advertising primarily using the critical perspective of

sociologist Erving Goffman. Available on Kanopy to subscribing libraries.

[Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/gender-revolution-a-journey-with-katie-couric/), *National Geographic*, 2017, 1 hr 35 mins

(documentary)

Explores our evolving understanding of gender identity.

[One in 2000](https://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/one_in_2000), Ajae Clearway, Director, 2007, 26 mins (documentary)

Explores the lives of people born intersex. Also available through the database Alexander Street

Academic Media.

[What It’s Like To Be Intersex](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAUDKEI4QKI), BuzzFeed, 3 mins (video clip)

Very short introduction to 4 intersex young people.